



# Kansas Department of Health and Environment LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

September 2018 | Volume 8

## KanCare Member Education Meetings



### October 1, 6 - 8 p.m.

Ramada Topeka Downtown  
Wichita Marriott

### October 2, 6 - 8 p.m.

KSU - Olathe  
Dodge City CC

### October 3, 6 - 8 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express, Pittsburg  
Fort Hays St.- Eagle Hall

### October 8, 6 - 8 p.m.

Conference Call 833-795-0476

Provider Meetings on same days  
Visit [KanCare.KS.gov](http://KanCare.KS.gov) for more info.

[Click here to visit our  
Newsroom for more!](#)



## Upcoming Events

September 19-21 *Lawrence*  
[KAMU Annual Conference](#)

October 9-10 *Wichita*  
[KDHE Geology and Well  
Technology Section Fall 2018  
Seminar / Tech Fair.](#)

November 1-2 *Wichita*  
[2018 Breastfeeding Conference](#)

November 7-9 *Wichita*  
[Governor's Conference for the  
Prevention of Child Abuse and  
Neglect](#)

November 15 *Topeka*  
[Kansas Opioid Conference](#)

## Helping in Disasters

*By Secretary Jeff Andersen*



When disaster strikes, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) springs into action in coordination with our local, State and federal partners. This was certainly the case during the recent floods that did widespread destruction and prompted a disaster declaration. KDHE's Bureau of

Environmental Field Services (BEFS) is one of our main sources of technical assistance after a natural disaster. The bureau has six district offices throughout the state, which allows KDHE to provide immediate response if needed.

In disaster response, KDHE assesses impacts to public health and the environment, which may be immediate or long term. That may mean working with a city's public water system or issuing a boil water advisory if water contamination is a concern, or providing guidance to impacted wastewater treatment systems.

In coordination with other bureaus within KDHE, BEFS works with industry, city and county officials to determine debris removal needs. KDHE often provides onsite support, guidance and direction on the best disposal methods. Our experts may recommend alternative landfills or authorize disposal without a permit.

KDHE staff may also assist in educating owners of private wells on disinfection and water sampling or advise owners of issues with septic systems or underground storage tanks.

Other KDHE bureaus play an essential role in helping residents pick up the pieces. Vital Statistics experts will assist affected individuals and families with recovering essential records, such as birth and death certificates. As in the case of the recent floods, we may provide replacement records for free.



Every disaster is different, but KDHE is there on the frontlines assist Kansans

View all of the **KDHE Legislative Updates** online at: <http://www.kdheks.gov/administration/index.html> in need.

## Division of Public Health

### Governor's SUD Task Force

The Governor's Task Force on Substance Use Disorders issued their report and recommendations to the Governor. The full report can be found at [http://www.preventoverdoseks.org/download/GovSUDTaskForceReport\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.preventoverdoseks.org/download/GovSUDTaskForceReport_FINAL.pdf)

### Life Expectancy Estimates

KDHE Office of Vital Statistics, Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, has partnered with the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) to produce life expectancy estimates in each census tract in the United States. Six years of data was used, through 2015, for the calculations of this indicator.

### BFH Poverty Statistics

The Bureau of Family Health programs are tracking process measures\* related to health equity and social determinants. Current data collected about the populations served by local maternal and child health agencies reveals: 54-57 percent are at or below 100 percent of the poverty level, and 72-76 percent are covered by KanCare or uninsured. This verifies public health programs are targeting high-need populations in line with the program's purpose; data is being utilized to conduct outreach and further target priority populations.

### PayIt

Office of Vital Statistics (OVS) in partnership with PayIt launched a mobile app to allow citizens to order vital records via the app.

## Division of Environment

### Haysville

All 209 requested connections have been completed for properties in Haysville, pursuant the dry cleaner contamination. For a detailed summary of the Haysville investigation and follow-up please contact [Liz.Dun@ks.gov](mailto:Liz.Dun@ks.gov) or Legislative Research.

### KDHE Laboratories

KDHE Laboratories (KHEL) was recognized for its participation in the Francisella tularensis PCR assay through a multicenter evaluation study at the 2018 Laboratory Response Network (LRN) National Meeting at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Ga. KHEL was one of only six states officially chosen to participate in the study. LRN is an integrated network of state and local public health, federal, military and international laboratories that can respond to bioterrorism, emerging infectious diseases, chemical terrorism and other public health emergencies.

### PFAS Community Engagement

Bureau of Water (BOW) attended the PFAS Community Engagement event at Ft. Leavenworth on Sept. 5. The EPA presented on current research and human health risks associated with PFAS, EPAs action items (including exploring a Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL) for two types of PFAS) and reported on the process for establishing a MCL. Two states from Region 7 spoke—Missouri and Kansas. Kansas supports an MCL with appropriate waivers, while Missouri does not support a MCL largely due to the costs associated with testing.



Requests for assistance for a constituent or questions on legislative matters, please contact **Liz Dunn**: [liz.dunn@ks.gov](mailto:liz.dunn@ks.gov), 785-207-3090. Questions about agency services, programs, or anything in this newsletter, please contact **Gerald Kratochvil**: [gerald.kratochvil@ks.gov](mailto:gerald.kratochvil@ks.gov) 785-296-1317.



The **Immunization Registry (KS-WebIZ)** team was recently honored by the American Immunization Registry Association at their annual conference for being one of only nineteen states who have "Transport, Complete Level" validation. This is the highest level of recognition indicating the Kansas Immunization Registry has achieved all best practice standards for the safe and reliable transfer of immunization data to and from any electronic health record system connected to the registry.

This transfer allows for single point data entry in provider offices who are administering vaccines resulting in less burden on provider resources and time, while also increasing the accuracy of the registry data. This becomes increasingly important as statutes now require that by July 1, 2010, all vaccinations administered in Kansas must be reported to the registry.

